

**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2002
City Hall KIVA
3939 Civic Center Boulevard, Scottsdale, Arizona 85251**

Present: Vice-Chair Vivian Johnson
David Bentler
Mark Gilliland
Glenn Gittner
David Hill
Mark Melnychenko
Jeffrey Schwartz

Staff Present: Rose Arballo
Debbie Astin
Tully Clifford
Aaron Iverson
Fran LaPrairie
John Little
Janet Lowden
Patrick McGreal
Dave Meinhart

Vice-Chair Johnson called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Vice-Chair Johnson introduced and welcomed Commissioner Mark Gilliland and Commissioner Jeffrey Schwartz who is the newest member of the Transportation Commission. Commissioner Schwartz gave a brief synopsis of his experience and background, and stated that he believes it is important for the Commission and the city to focus on long range planning issues.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 3, 2002

COMMISSIONER BENTLER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION SPECIAL STUDY SESSION AND SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 3, 2002. COMMISSIONER HILL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED 6-1. COMMISSIONER SCHWARTZ ABSTAINED THE MOTION.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2002

COMMISSIONER GITTNER NOMINATED VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION. COMMISSIONER BENTLER SECONDED THE VOTE, WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.

COMMISSIONER GITTNER NOMINATED COMMISSIONER BENTLER FOR VICE-CHAIR OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION. COMMISSIONER HILL SECONDED THE VOTE, WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.

LONG-RANGE CIRCULATION PLAN (STREETS MASTER PLAN)

Mr. Iverson gave a brief overview of the long-range circulation plan and explained it is an update of the transportation circulation element in the General Plan. The purpose of this plan is to try to maintain and improve traffic circulation within the next 5-20 years and to reduce manage demand.

The four elements and timeline of the planning process are:

1. Information Gathering, which will provide data on the current transportation system to determine future transportation needs. Winter/Spring 2002.
2. Create Solutions to identify ideas and vision for the plan by creating various circulation alternatives. Summer 2002.
3. Making it Real: The City Council will need to make this real by adopting the long-range circulation plan as the official street plan for the city of Scottsdale. Summer/Fall 2002.
4. Public Participation: Input will be sought at workshops, open houses, public hearings, Commission meetings, etc. Early 2003.

Mr. Iverson stated that the primary goals of the Commission during the planning process is to help staff set a vision and goals for the long-range circulation plan, and to review and approve the plan.

Commissioner Bentler asked if the results of the Major Investment Study will be folded into the long-range circulation plan. Mr. Iverson answered yes, and that any impacts involving the street network will be included.

In regards to Commissioner Melnychenko's concern regarding bus bays and bus stops, he asked if these would be part of the guidelines of the long-range circulation plan. Mr. Iverson answered he did not envision putting bus bays and bus stops onto the street network as bus bays are explained in the Design Standards and Policies Manual. Mr. Iverson plans this to be part of the circulation element that includes street classifications and street standards.

Commissioner Schwartz questioned how the long-range circulation plan will address issues (such as the Loop 101, downtown circulation and Los Arcos) that are still evolving. Mr. Iverson stated it will be a challenge and that these issues will be addressed by staffs' efforts to try to engage these in with local master plans that currently exist in the city.

Commissioner Hill and Commissioner Gilliland questioned if the long-range circulation plan is an actual document. Commissioner Hill asked if the terms circulation element or mobility element have different definitions. Mr. Iverson stated there are background documents that support existing and future conditions of streets that lead up to the final plan and that the final plan will be a working document that will show how the street network looks like. Mr. Iverson's vision is that the final plan will be a separate document and that the background supporting documents will be available to anyone as needed. Mr. Little added that the term mobility is used to embrace some verbal understandings of what needs to be moved in and around the community such as people, vehicles, commerce, and information. Mr. Little believes that the term circulation element is more comprehensive and user friendly.

Mr. Little explained that the street circulation plan will augment the General Plan and will provide maps of all city streets. Mr. Iverson added that private and commercial vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians are different modes of transportation that rely on the street network.

Commissioner Gilliland asked what type of information is provided in the General Plan and asked if the long-range circulation plan shows streets that have not yet been built in Scottsdale. Mr. Iverson explained that a new General Plan will be voted on in March and that staff is relying on the circulation element, which contains a street cross-section map and a street classification map that shows existing and future streets. Staff will continue to review streets that have not been developed. Mr. Little added that the proposed General Plan has shifted from showing a map that describes the city's transportation network to a document that describes a vision and philosophy

about how transportation and mobility should work in the community, how the city's transportation plan should integrate with the regional system, etc.

With regards to the development of the circulation plan, Commissioner Gittner questioned if staff is considering points of conflict, traffic volumes, signalization, existing frequencies, etc. when developing the physical inventory of existing streets. Mr. Iverson answered yes, and that he is using the city's GIS computer program to collect data on each street in the community.

Staff will continue to provide the Commission with updates as further developments are made.

PLAN FOR CAB CONNECTION

Ms. Astin addressed the efforts made in marketing the Cab Connection and TRIP programs and why it is important to market this program slowly. She stated that 18 presentations have been made to the various Senior Centers and retirement communities, a couple segments have aired on city cable channel 11, information has been provided at the city of Scottsdale Arts Festival, and a presentation has been made to the Human Services Commission. In addition, social workers are relaying program information to their clients, life skill teachers at Chaparral and Desert Mountain High Schools will work with their physically challenged students, and an article has been published in Scottsdale Pride. Staff is continuing to inform the public of the program, but primarily rely on word of mouth through the Senior Centers, health care providers, Dial-a-Ride, and participants of the program.

Per Commissioner Gilliland's request, Ms. Astin gave a brief overview of the Cab Connection program and TRIP program. Ms. Astin stated that Cab Connection currently has more than 800 participants and 125 people registered in the TRIP program.

Ms. Astin stated that two people work on the program and that no staff is actually dedicated to it. Ms. Astin stated that the program has grown very rapidly and received a much higher response than was anticipated. Therefore, staff needs to be careful in working with the current resources available with personnel to ensure the program is administered more efficiently and can accommodate the rapid growth of the program.

Vice-Chair Johnson asked if staff has considered using volunteers to augment staff. Ms. Astin answered yes, and that the program has rapidly grown resulting in the need to rely on volunteers working specific times for a certain number of hours and relies on hired staff. Mr. Little added that staff wants to make sure the growth of the program matches the expectations of the citizens to deliver the service. As Cab Connection started as a pilot program, it has grown to be very successful resulting in the need to plan for a long-term success of the program.

Mr. Little stated that staff needs to work within budgetary limitations to see how this program competes with other needy programs throughout the community and will continue to work with city leadership, the Citizens' Budget Committee and City Council to seek a good financial foundation to get this program staffed appropriately for the current and future demands of the program.

REVIEW STATUS OF BUS SHELTER PROGRAM

Mr. Meinhart gave a brief update on the bus shelter design and installations in which 100 new bus shelters are anticipated to be installed over a one-year period. He stated that the Development Review Board approved a shelter concept that meets Scottsdale's character and expectations. As a result of Transportation staff seeking citizen input and comments, positive feedback was received along with one concern as to whether or not lighting could be provided at these bus shelters. Mr. Meinhart stated that providing electricity to the sites and making it possible to put electricity is being considered in the design. Mr. Meinhart cannot guarantee lighting will be provided at these sites, but is working with Capital Project Management as work is done in the final design.

Final approval on the use of the standard design for bus shelters has not been given on approximately 30 corridors. The Development Review Board has requested that staff consider shelters that tie into the existing streetscape efforts that have been done over the last several years along the Frank Lloyd Wright corridor, Scottsdale Road corridor in

the downtown area and some of the changes made along the Scottsdale corridor. Staff is working with the Scottsdale Cultural Council to review these specialty sites on identified corridors.

Mr. Meinhart stated that the Capital Project Management and Municipal Services divisions are currently negotiating with an engineer to do final design of the standard shelters. It is anticipated that a contract will go forward to the City Council for their approval within the next month.

Commissioner Melnychenko asked if the new design allots space for bus route information. Mr. Meinhart stated this is something that will be incorporated in the design, but no decision has currently been made.

Commissioner Hill asked what the life expectancy of the proposed shelters is. Mr. Meinhart answered this has not been determined at this time, but is something that will be determined as the final design is complete.

Vice-Chair Johnson asked when the final design would be approved and expressed her concern that installation of the bus shelters should be done as soon as possible. Mr. Meinhart explained that the Capital Project Management department is in the process of negotiating a contract with a structural engineer for final design and expects the installation of shelters to begin sometime in the fall of 2002.

In regards to Commissioner Gilliland's concern on sites requiring right-of-way or utility assessment, he suggested it might be possible to expedite installation of shelters if a standard prototype structural design were done. Mr. Meinhart stated that the designer will be charged with doing the site design and that staff has identified sites that require right-of-way or utility assessment. Mr. Meinhart also mentioned that the Survey Department is currently working on developing legal descriptions for those identified sites.

Vice-Chair Johnson asked if temporary canopy shelters can be installed in identified locations where shade is needed. Mr. Little stated he will meet with Michelle Korf to see what can be done on an interim basis until installation of the new shelters can be started.

Commissioner Schwartz asked if the new design will impact the number of shelters to be installed and if cost exceeds the allotted budget for this project. Mr. Meinhart stated that the final design needs to be complete in order to get the final cost estimate for the 100 identified sites. Currently, the budget in the five-year plan is \$1.5 million. The Commission has recommended to increase the five-year expenditure for shelters by an additional \$1 million and will go before the City Council for final adoption in June. Mr. Meinhart stated that the request for the significant increase to the proposed five-year budget is to try to get as many of the 100 shelters in place. Staff will continue to look at funding this program throughout the years.

Commissioner Gittner asked for comment on former Chairman Paul Fichiera's request that misters be provided at bus shelters during the summer months in an effort to increase ridership. Mr. Meinhart stated that at this point, shade and seating amenities are the riders most critical concerns. He explained that water is an issue in some cases, but tapping into an existing water line that could be a main distribution line could pose some concerns.

GENERAL MANAGER ITEMS

Relative to the tragic accidents on Pima Road that took six lives over the period of approximately four weeks, Mr. Little asked the Commission, staff, and the community to drive safe and courteously, observe the speed limits, drive prudently, and to reduce the use of cell phone calls while driving or other distractions that can cause a person to drive in an unsafe manner.

Mr. Little mentioned that the Transportation Department is working closely with the Police Department and citizens of the community in an effort to heighten public awareness about drinking and driving, exceeding the speed limit and driving in an unsafe manner. Mr. Tully Clifford, Traffic Engineering Director, will take a leadership role for the Scottsdale Transportation Department along with the Scottsdale Police Department in bringing increased enforcement.

COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Bentler asked that Chaparral Road be added to the Transportation Commission meeting agenda of March 21.

ADJOURNMENT

The Transportation Commission Regular meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Arballo
Recording Secretary